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DEPARTMENT MOVES FORWARD WITH WORKING GROUPS AND PUBLIC INPUT ON THE ESSA CONSOLIDATED PLAN

(BOISE) – Following the signing of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) on December 10, 2015, the Idaho State Department of Education began establishing working groups and gathering public input in developing the state Consolidated Plan as required by ESSA.

Under the new law, each state is required to submit a State Plan articulating how the law will be implemented. The department, under the direction of Superintendent Ybarra, is committed to developing a thoughtful consolidated state plan that reflects both the new ESSA requirements and department's strategic plan goals in supporting schools and students to achieve. These goals are:

- All Idaho students persevere in life and are ready for college and careers;
- All education stakeholders in Idaho are mutually responsible for accountability and student progress;
- Idaho attracts and retains great teachers and leaders.

Developing the State Plan requires meaningful consultation with stakeholders representing a diverse cross-section of district and school representatives, professional organization representatives, and state leadership members.

The first step of the ESSA implementation is to complete Idaho's Consolidated State Plan, which is required by the law. In March 2016, department staff convened several workgroups to begin gathering stakeholder input for the plan. This input will aide department staff as they develop the contents of Idaho's plan and how the state will implement changes under the ESSA. While they were initially configured differently, the workgroups now mirror the required structure of the plan:

- Consultation and Coordination
- Challenging Academic Standards and Academic Assessments
- Accountability, Support, and Improvement for Schools
- Supporting Excellent Educators
- Supporting All Students

Moving forward, the department will continue to work with stakeholders and gather public input with a goal of having a draft consolidated plan available for further review by stakeholders in October 2016. This draft will then move forward for review and approval by board members of the State Board of Education and the Governor's office.

For more information about work that has been conducted on the state's consolidated plan, please visit the [ESSA Consolidated Plan webpage](#). Questions and comments may be directed to Jeff Church at (208) 332-6934 or by email at jchurch@sde.idaho.gov.

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